**Ontario Liberal Party**

**Membership Review**

Provincial Liberal Association and Commission Club Consultation Workbook

April 2020

Dear President,

Thank you for taking the time to participate in the Ontario Liberal Party’s Membership Review. As the Secretary of the Ontario Liberal Party, I’ve been tasked with leading this consultation process and am looking forward to engaging with members about the future of our party over the next several weeks.

As a leader in your riding or club, your feedback, and the responses from your members, are extremely valuable to this process. I truly believe that our grassroots understand firsthand what is best for the future of the Ontario Liberal Party, and this is your opportunity to share that feedback.

While members have had an initial opportunity to provide feedback through the March edition of the Supporters Survey, it is also crucial that your association or club’s voice as a whole is included as Executive Council reviews the responses to this consultation and considers long-term recommendations for changes related to membership.

Through this document, your local association or club will be able to provide feedback on the following topics:

* Membership Fees
* Structure of Membership ­
* Decision Making, Participation, and Value
* Administration

Each riding and club is unique but we all share the common desire of building the most inclusive party in Canadian politics. The 2020 Membership Review is an important opportunity to strengthen our party and built towards victory in the years ahead.

I hope your association or club is able to have a robust discussion as you review this booklet together by email, phone, or video conference. While we may not be able to come together in person, it is vital that your local team offers feedback to build a better, stronger and modern Ontario Liberal Party.

Sincerely,

Ryan Singh
Secretary

Ontario Liberal Party

**Purpose**

Regular review of major functions of the party to seek input and make recommendations is crucial to the health and success of our movement. We’re at a turning point in our history – with over 38,000 members strong and a new leader at the helm, we are well-positioned to breathe fresh air into Ontario politics.

By reviewing how we attract, retain, and engage people in our movement, we can continue moving our party forward for years to come. Ensuring that we establish recommendations and actions based on the perspectives of party members will assist in building a stronger and more inclusive Ontario Liberal Party.

**Process**

The intention of this process is to ensure that party members have several opportunities to provide feedback that will inspire the future of the Ontario Liberal Party.

When this review was first envisioned, a commitment was made to host consultation meetings across the province. However, given the reality we now find ourselves in, the Ontario Liberal Party will conduct this consultation without any in-person meetings, taking steps to protect members by providing telephone and internet-based options for participation.

**There are five components included in 2020 Membership Review:**

**Supporter Survey –** the March survey focused on questions related to membership reform. Responses from this survey will provide direction on the priorities of party members. The survey ran Sunday, March 22, 2020 to Sunday March 29, 2020.

**President Webinar –** On Monday, April 6, 2020, the Ontario Liberal Party President, Brian Johns, held an ongoing monthly conversation with members via webinar. This was another opportunity for members to learn about the results of the Supporter Survey in detail.

**Leader’s Town Hall Teleconference** – Steven Del Duca will participate in a townhall with President Brian Johns by teleconference on Tuesday, April 14. More details are available at ontarioliberal.ca/events.

**Consultation Workbook –** This workbook is another important component in this process. It will enable PLAs and Clubs to collaborate locally and develop responses that reflect your priorities.

**Regional Consultations Meetings –** Hosted by webinar, there will be an opportunity for members in each region to participate and develop recommendations on membership. The OWLC and OYL will also be consulted in sessions specifically dedicated to commissions.

**Membership Consultation Schedule**

**Sunday, March 22-29:**

10:00 a.m. Supporter Survey on Membership Review

**Tuesday, April 14:**

7:45 p.m. Telephone Town Hall with Leader Steven Del Duca

**Saturday, April 25:**

9:00 a.m. Central East Regional Consultation Meeting

1:00 p.m. South Central Regional Consultation Meeting

**Sunday, April 26:**

10:00 a.m. North Regional Consultation Meeting

1:00 p.m. Toronto (York/North York/Scarborough) Regional Consultation Meeting

**Saturday, May 2:**

9:00 a.m. Southwest Regional Consultation Meeting

1:00 p.m. Central West Regional Consultation Meeting

**Sunday, May 3:**

9:00 a.m. Ontario Women’s Liberal Commission Consultation Meeting

11:00 a.m. Ontario Young Liberals Consultation Meeting

1:00 p.m. Central North Regional Consultation Meeting

**Saturday, May 9:**

9:00 a.m. Toronto (Etobicoke/Downtown/East York) Regional Consultation Meeting

1:00 p.m. East Regional Consultation Meeting

**Friday, May 15:**

5:00 p.m. Deadline to submit Membership Consultation Workbook

Note: All times listed are in Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)

Registration for all membership consultation meetings are available online at ontarioliberal.ca/events.Each webinar consultation is limited to 500 attendee spaces so please register in advance and log on early to secure your spot.

**Consultation Workbook Instructions**

As the President of a Provincial Liberal Association or Club, we’re asking for your leadership among your members to assist with this portion of the process.

Although you cannot host an in-person meeting, you can consult with your executive and members via teleconference, video call, by email, or other working-group style software. Your Regional Vice-President and Ontario Liberal Party staff are available to assist and provide suggestions on how to best facilitate this discussion with your members.

**Deadlines for Submission**

If you would like your feedback to help inform the conversation at your regional or commission consultation meeting online, please submit this document two days prior to the event date.

If you instead would like your feedback to only inform the final package of information shared with Executive Council as the review is concluded, please submit your feedback no later than 5:00 p.m. EDT on Friday, May 15, 2020.

**Where and How to Submit**

You can submit your answers to the questions laid out in this document by uploading it through the consultation form on the party website at ontarioliberal.ca/membership-consultation-workbook.

**Section 1: Membership Fees**

As laid out in section 3.26 of our party's Constitution, the fees associated with membership in the Ontario Liberal Party are set by Executive Council, the elected body that governs our party. To ensure members would not have to renew their memberships as the leadership election crossed into a new calendar year in 2020, Executive Council made the decision to extend the minimum membership period to two years at a cost of $20 for adults and $10 for seniors and youths.

**Question 1: Do you believe the party should increase, maintain, or reduce the fee for memberships after the 2022 election?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Increase |
|  | Maintain  |
|  | Reduce  |

**Question 2: What would you recommend the membership fee of the party should be? *(Note: the current fee is set at $10 per year for adults and $5 per year for seniors and youths)***

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**Question 3: What should be the minimum and maximum term (in years) when purchasing a membership? *(Note: the current minimum is set at two years while the maximum is set at five years)***

|  |
| --- |
| Minimum:  |
| Maximum: |

**Question 4: Please share any other thoughts you have about the fee structure of the Ontario Liberal Party:**

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**Section 2: Structure of Membership**

Currently, the Ontario Liberal Party is made up of over 38,000 official members who have purchased a membership. We are also supported by hundreds of volunteers, thousands of engaged supporters, and over 1 million voters who cast a ballot for a Liberal candidate in the last election.

Under the existing structure of the party, members are granted specifics abilities after the purchase of a membership, such as voting for the leader, participating in local association events, and attending broader party-wide events. Other supporters of the party who have not purchased a membership do not have these same abilities.

**Question 5: Do you support keeping or replacing the existing membership structure?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Keep |
|  | Replace |
|  | Keep, but with some changes  |

**Question 6: If ‘Replace’ or ‘Keep, but with some changes’, what do you recommend specifically changing about the membership process?**

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At the 2019 AGM, a constitutional amendment was moved to introduce a 'supporter' category alongside traditional membership within our party but did not receive the two-thirds majority of votes required to pass. This proposal suggested introducing a category of 'supporter' registration, granting the ability to attend local association meetings, receive party emails, and cast a vote for a candidate during a leadership election. It would exist alongside paid membership within the party rather than replacing it and would be free of cost.

**Question 7: Do you support introducing a 'supporter' category of participation alongside existing paid membership or would you prefer to keep the existing structure in place?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Keep |
|  | Replace |
|  | Keep, but with some changes  |

**Question 8: If you are in favour of a non-paid ‘supporter’ category, which abilities would you permit? (Select all that apply)**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Attend/Participate at PLA or Club Meetings |
|  | Receive Party E-Mails  |
|  | Vote in the Leadership Process |
|  | Attend OLP Meetings  |
|  | Same Delegate Rate at OLP Meetings |
|  | Vote at OLP Meetings  |
|  | Vote in riding Nomination Meetings |

**Section 3: Decision Making, Participation, and Value**

Members are the lifeblood of our party and the key decision-makers in our movement. Members nominate local candidates, elect local executives, choose our Executive Council, vote on constitutional amendments, and elect our leader.

**Leadership Elections**

Our current leadership election process has been in place since 1992 and includes a two-part ballot vote at Leadership Election Meetings (LEMs) in your riding followed by a delegated leadership convention.

**Question 9: In the future, would you like to keep or replace the delegated process for leadership elections?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Keep  |
|  | Replace  |
|  | Keep, but with some changes  |

**Question 10: If you chose ‘Replace’ or ‘Keep, but with some changes’, what do you recommend changing about the leadership election structure?**

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**Annual General Meetings**

Leadership elections are not the only time we use a delegated process. Annual General Meetings follow a similar process where delegates are elected in their ridings at Delegate Election Meetings (DEMs) to attend the convention on behalf of their riding association.

**Question 11: In the future, would you like to keep or replace the delegated process for Ontario Liberal Party AGMs?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Keep  |
|  | Replace  |
|  | Keep, but with some changes  |

**Question 12: If you chose ‘Replace’ or ‘Keep, but with some changes’, what do you recommend changing about the process for Ontario Liberal Party AGMs?**

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**Policy Conferences**

Section 10.2 of the OLP Constitution lays out a delegated process that determines who is eligible to attend and vote at party policy conventions. These members include several ex-officio delegates and up to five elected policy delegates from each riding association.

**Question 13: In the future, would you like to keep or replace the delegated process for policy conventions?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Keep  |
|  | Replace  |
|  | Keep, but with some changes  |

**Question 14: If you chose ‘Replace’ or ‘Keep, but with some changes’, what do you recommend changing about the policy convention structure?**

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**Question 15: What other recommendations would you make to help create more value for members as they participate in the party?**

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**Section 4:** **Administration**

As we build recommendations on the structure membership and the involvement of members in the party, we need to ensure that we take steps to improve how we manage membership within the party.

**Question 16: Should the party move to an *exclusively* online purchasing option for memberships to reduce the use of paper and improve the accuracy of data submitted?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes  |
|  | No  |

**Question 17: Should the party give out membership cards?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes  |
|  | No  |

**Question 18: If there is a ‘Supporter’ category of membership, should these members receive a ‘Supporter’ card?**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Yes  |
|  | No  |

**Question 19: One way the party can improve the way we engage with prospective members is by allowing for a non-gender specific option on the membership form. What other changes would you recommend to improving the administration of membership in the Ontario Liberal Party?**

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**Consultation Document Submission Information**

Riding/Club:

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Riding/Club President:

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Format of the Meeting:

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Number of Participants:

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|  |

Submission Date:

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|  |

**Please submit your feedback to:**

**ontarioliberal.ca/membership-consultation-workbook**